

# Gunther sets blistering pace



## DT News Network Manama

**M**aximilian Gunther of BWT Arden set the overall pace today on the third and final day of official Formula 2 pre-season testing at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Gunther set the day's best at 1min 42.756secs. He registered his mark midway during the morning session on the 12th of a total 28 laps. It was the fastest time of all three days of running around

BIC's 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix track.

In the afternoon, he had a time of 1min 44.145secs.

Louis Deletraz of Charouz Racing System had the second-fastest time of the day.

George Russell and Jack Aitken, both of ART Grand Prix, were third and fourth, respectively.

Tadasuke Makino of Russian Time rounded out the top six on the day's overall best times, all of which were set in the morning.

In the afternoon, Gunther's BWT Arden teammate Nirei Fukuzumi had the quickest time of the session of 1min 43.430secs.

A total of 20 cars from all 10 Formula 2 teams took part in the Bahrain testing. They were the second of the pre-season for Formula 2, following the first held in Le Castellet, France at Circuit Paul Ricard earlier this month.

Testing was done in the brand new Formula 2 2018

chassis. The new Formula 2 season will be flagging off in the kingdom, in support of the Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix from April 6 to 8.

The FIA Formula 2 Championship is one of two support series to Formula 1 at this year's Bahrain Grand Prix. The other is the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East.

For further information, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

# F1 Championship set for an epic new season



Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix flags off at 6.10pm on Sunday, April 8

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**T**he 2018 FIA Formula 1 World Championship is set to be an epic season.

The new campaign is set to feature 21 Grands Prix held all across the globe in five continents.

Action flags off this weekend in Melbourne with the Australian Grand Prix.

The championship then comes to the Kingdom of Bahrain for the region's biggest and most highly anticipated weekend, the Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, from April 6 to 8.

The season ends seven months later in November in the UAE, with the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

There are plenty of exciting milestones to look forward to in 2018.

Reigning champion Lewis

Hamilton of Mercedes and chief rival Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari are both vying for a fifth drivers' World title. Should either of them win, they would join only Michael Schumacher and Juan Manuel Fangio as drivers who have achieved that feat.

Mercedes could also become the only team, other than Ferrari, to win at least five straight constructors' World titles. Mercedes are currently among four teams who have won four in a row, and they now have a chance to continue their magnificent run and try to catch Ferrari's record of six straight.

Also in 2018, three drivers are on course for 100 podiums. To date, only Schumacher, Hamilton and Alain Prost have done it. Vettel could soon join that exclusive club as he already has 99 podiums to his name.

Fernando Alonso of McLaren needs just three more podiums to hit the century mark, while Vettel's Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen needs nine more.

Formula 1 has implemented several changes for the new season. The Bahrain Grand Prix now flags off at 6.10pm on Sunday, April 8, 10 minutes later than its regular start time.

There are also chances for fans to get an even closer experience to all the racing.

The introduction of 'Grid Kids' will see up-and-coming local drivers playing a major role in the pre-race build up, whilst the new Formula 1 Pirelli Hot Laps programme will be launched at the Bahrain Grand Prix. This will offer a few lucky fans the chance to be driven round the track by an F1 driver. In addition, fans will also have the opportunity to join the 'Truck Tour'

experience, parading around the circuit in open top buses during the race weekend.

All these changes are in the context for the new season of F1, which inevitably brings changes to the teams and their set-ups.

McLaren has a new engine partner in Renault and there are several driver changes, including Charles Leclerc, the reigning Formula 2 champion, now driving for Sauber and fellow-rookie Brendon Hartley driving for Toro Rosso.

Amongst the new technical regulations, the use of a halo cockpit protection device will be the most obvious modification to the car, providing an additional safety feature for the drivers in case of an incident.

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## By Invitation

Reem Benschams



## Who are you Today, and Who is To Thank for your Success?

**W**e are the product of sleepless nights, constant exhaustion and a never-ending cycle of worry and pain.

We have grown on shoulders of giants, not needing to start from scratch.

We are who we are today because of one leading factor.

### Who are you today, and who is to thank for your success?

Stephen King, a world-famous author who sold more than 350 million copies of 54 published novels;

Michael Jordan, a professional basketball player, Olympic athlete, businessperson and actor;

Richard Branson, a billionaire business magnate, investor and philanthropist who reins more than 400 companies.

### Who do they owe their successes to?

"My mother was a reader, and she read to us. She read us Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde when I was six and my brother was eight; I never forgot it." - Stephen King

"My mother is my root, my foundation. She planted the seed that I base my life on, and that is the belief that the ability to achieve starts in your mind." - Michael Jordan

"[My mother always taught me to] never look back in regret, but to immediately move on to the next thing." - Richard Branson

There is a certain beauty to the way these successful people describe their mothers, there are lessons they learnt since they were little yet still carry with them throughout their successes. Mothers have a way to be with us every step, somehow aiding our successes before we know the extent of our future achievements. We became and will continue to become because of them.

### Who are you today, and who is to thank for your success?

I am Reem Benschams, a Bahraini youth, who may have not achieved as much as Stephen King, Michael Jordan or Richard Branson, but has grown and with that growth is closer to achieve all she aspires.

From my first talent show as a 6 year old, where I was too afraid to perform in front of a large audience but was motivated by my mother. My first public speaking competition, where I stuttered over my words but was encouraged by my mother. My first of creative writing competition, where my mother cheered in every award ceremony and bought books when she realized my interest. My first sports day, where she reminded me to never give up and to keep moving. Horse riding; Taekwondo; swimming classes; art classes; Quran recitation. All of which are minor events but large stepping stones in my life.

These events have given me the confidence to do more and to never be afraid to try new things. Support at every step of the way, and continuous encouragement to explore, this influence has made those minor events lead to major achievements, all of which will be the leading factor to the success in achieving all my aspirations.

A teacher and instructor, and now a mentor and guide, a school I hope to never graduate from.

Thank you, for the sleepless nights, constant exhaustion and a never-ending cycle of worry and pain.

Thank you for letting us grow on your shoulders, and not start from scratch or begin again.

Thank you for making us who we are today.

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)*